

of the prize and the heron settled to take over the prize before the gull could turn and retrieve it. Both the gull and the tern alighted on either side of the heron to watch it swallow the fish.

March 4, 1998

LAVKUMAR KHACHER
646, Vastunirman,
Gandhinagar 382 022,
Gujarat, India.

9. ADDITIONAL SITE RECORDS OF BLACK STORK *CICONIA NIGRA* (LINN.) IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Manakadan (1987) reported sighting of black stork *Ciconia nigra* (Linn.) near Rollapadu in Kurnool dist., Andhra Pradesh. As per the literature available, the distribution of this stork has not been reported from south of Maharashtra (Ali and Ripley, 1983) except for Manakadan's report from Andhra Pradesh, Perennou and Santharam (1990) from Tamil Nadu and Henry (1971) from Sri Lanka.

We further add that the black stork has been recorded by us at various places in Andhra Pradesh on the banks of River Godavari and its branches in East Godavari dist. A pair was first sighted along the banks of River Gouthami near Ravulapalem in Jan. 1987. Subsequently, 4 birds were recorded near Mandapalli in Dec. 1989; 3 near Kumarajulanka in Dec. 1992 and 6 near Ravulapalem in Jan. 1995. These additional site records of black stork from Andhra Pradesh are worth noting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Prof. J.V. Ramana Rao for guidance and valuable comments, Dr. B.M. Parasharya for showing his interest in our findings and going through the manuscript, and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi for financial assistance.

March 17, 1998

V. VASUDEVA RAO
V. NAGULU
C. SRINIVASULU
Wildlife Biology Section,
Department of Zoology,
Osmania University,
Hyderabad 500 007,
Andhra Pradesh,
India.

REFERENCES

ALI, S. & S.D. RIPLEY (1983): Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan. Compact Edn. Oxford, Delhi.
HENRY, G.M. (1971): A Guide to the Birds of Ceylon. Oxford University Press, Bombay.
PERENNOU, C. & V. SANTHARAM (1990): Status of some birds

in southeastern India. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 87(2): 306-307.

MANAKADAN, R. (1987): The Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* (Linnaeus) in Kurnool district (Andhra Pradesh). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 84(3): 675-676.

10. STEALING OF REDWATTLED LAPWING *VANELLUS INDICUS* (BODDAERT) AND YELLOW-WATTLED LAPWING *VANELLUS MALABARICUS* (BODDAERT) EGGS BY COWHERDS

During a study on the nesting habits of the redwattled lapwing *Vanellus indicus* (Boddaert) and the yellow-wattled lapwing *V. malabaricus* (Boddaert) at Brindavan and its environs at Kadugodi, located about 22 km from

Bangalore, Karnataka, we observed that one of the reasons for loss of eggs in these species was the collection of eggs by cowherds. The local cowherds were observed searching for lapwing nests during the dry season. The nests could be

located by observing the parent birds, which were very vocal. After collection, the eggs were covered with cowdung, roasted in a fire made of dry twigs and eaten by the cowherds. Though other predators like dogs, mongoose, snakes and foxes were sighted in the nesting area, the cowherds alone caused a loss of 61% and 8% eggs of redwattled and yellow-wattled lapwings respectively, in the 19 and 10 nests observed for each species.

April 2, 1998

K.V. SRINIVAS

*Department of Biosciences (Zoology),
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning,
(Deemed University), Whitefield Campus,
Kadugodi, P.O. Bangalore 560 067
Karnataka, India.*
S. SUBRAMANYA
*HPHT Scheme, J Block, GKVK,
University of Agricultural Sciences,
Bangalore, Karnataka, India.*

11. A NOTE ON THE FEEDING OF LESSER COUCAL (*CENTROPUS TOULOU*)

In 1994, I had discovered a small breeding colony of lesser adjutant stork in Kahala village, about 48 km from Malda, West Bengal. On March 16, 1997, I was watching a parent bird feeding a rather large young one by regurgitation. I saw that some food had slipped to the ground from the nest. About 10 minutes later, when I reached the nest to identify that food item, I found that a lesser coucal *Centropus toulou* (identified by its small size and white tipped tail feathers) was feeding on the same item. In five minutes, it devoured about 1/6th to 1/8th of the morsel. Suddenly a village dog approached and the bird flew away.

On a closer look, the food item was found to be a fish (*Mastacembelus armatus*). According to the HANDBOOK (Ali and Ripley 1987, Compact

Edn. Oxford University Press, Bombay), the lesser coucal feeds almost entirely on grasshoppers, so fish is a new dietary item for this species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the anonymous referee for commenting on an earlier draft and to my friend Subhasish Sengupta for typing this article.

April 3, 1998

SAMIRAN JHA

*Green Peoples India
Pranta Pally,
P.O. & Dist. Malda,
Pin 732 101,
West Bengal,
India.*

12. OCCURRENCE OF THE YELLOWBROWED BULBUL *HYPSSIPETES INDICUS* (JERDON) IN THE NALAMALLA HILLS, ANDHRA PRADESH

The yellowbrowed bulbul *Hypsipetes indicus* (Jerdon) is a common resident of Western Ghats affecting evergreen biotopes above 900 m (Ali and Ripley, 1983) and has been recorded from the Eastern Ghats first by Taher *et al.* in 1990 from Tirumala Hills (Taher and Pittie, 1994). Santharam (1992) reported it from Mamandur (Chittoor dist.) and Karthikeyan (1996, 1997) at Kolli Hills (Tamil Nadu). These records indicate that the yellowbrowed bulbul is more or less restricted in

distribution to Western Ghats and has been occasionally reported from southern Eastern Ghats. We report its occurrence from the Nalamalla Hills further north from the hitherto reported range in Eastern Ghats. While birding at Umamahesharam near Mannanur in Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Wildlife Sanctuary (or Rajiv Tiger Reserve), Mahboobnagar dist. during April 1997, we came across a pair of yellowbrowed bulbul busily feeding. The species was easily identified, based